Strengthening TPDS

895. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the competent authority announced incentives to strengthen Targeted Public Distribution System after the conference of State Food Ministers held in October, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken for reviewing number of Below the Poverty Line (BPL) beneficiaries and the criteria suggested therefor, if any;

(c) the number of BPL beneficiaries, as on today State-wise;

(d) the details of incentives granted/recommended to fair price shops and number of fair price shops functioning State-wise; and

(e) the details of steps taken to strengthen village level societies involved in procurement of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to strengthen the Public Distribution System (PDS), the functioning of the PDS has been reviewed in the Conference of the State Food Secretaries held on 17th September, 2004 and thereafter in the Conference of State Food Ministers held on 28th October, 2004. As per the recommendations of these conferences all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been instructed to ensure that all families at the risk of hunger including migrant labour/displaced persons/homeless population are issued ration entitlement authority slips; step taken to improve the economic viability of ration shops and incentives provided to increase procurement under decentralized procurement of foodgrains so as to make the PDS more cost effective as well as to cater to the local tastes. In addition, the Scheme relating to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) catering to the poorest of the poor families has been further expanded so as to cover 50 lakh additional BPL families under the Scheme.

It has been reiterated to the State Governments/UT Administrations to identify only the really poor and vulnerable sections of society as BPL households under the TPDS so that the number of such families in the country remains within the realistic poverty estimates of the Planning Commission.

(c) to (e) The State-wise number of BPL families (including AAY) identified and issued ration cards and, number of Fair Price Shops is given in the Statement (See below).

The above Conference has *inter alia* recommended a number of steps to improve the economic viability of the Fair Price Shops in the country. Follow up action on these recommendations has been initiated. As regards, strengthening of the village level societies involved in procurement of foodgrains the Government has provided for commission to such societies (where arthia charges do not exist) at 1 % of the MSP.

Statement

No. of BPL Families

SI. No.	States/UTs	No. of BPL families identified and issued ration cards (including Antyodaya families)	No. Of fair price shops
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	140.46	40691
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.99	1444
3.	Assam	18.91	33229
4.	Bihar	71.64	41818
5.	Chhattisgarh	19.17	7869
6.	Delhi	4.34	3114
7.	Goa	0.26	523
8.	Gujarat	36.09	14325
9.	Haryana	8.12	7373
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2.92	4085
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	7.36	3927
12.	Jharkhand	23.95	14395
13.	Karnataka	74.17	20681
14.	Kerala	20.23	14137
15.	Madhya Pradesh	52.05	18688
16.	Maharashtra	73.60	49921
17.	Manipur	1.28	2551
18.	Meghalaya	1.83	4302
19.	Mizoram	0.68	. 1019

1	2	3	4
20.	Nagaland	1.24	401
21.	Orissa	48.49	23579
22.	Punjab	7.14	13874
23.	Rajasthan	24.32	20861
24.	Sikkim	0.43	1071
25.	Tamil Nadu	11.18	27995
26.	Tripura	2.95	1434
27.	Uttar Pradesh	106.79	74788
28.	Uttaranchal	4.98	7332
29.	West Bengal	47.32	20430
30.	A&N Islands	0.15	488
31.	Chandigarh	0.07	56
32.	D&NHaveli	0.16	78
33!	Daman &Diu	0.05	51
34.	Lakshadweep	0.01	35
35.	Pondicherry	0.97	408
	TOTAL :	814.30	476973

Disposal of foodgrain stock from FCI godowns

896. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 20,000 tonnes of foodgrain stock has been lying in the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns;

(b) if so, the rationale behind keeping such an old stock of foodgrains in the godowns;

(c) the efforts made by Government for disposal of the old stock of foodgrains; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for timely disposal of such stocks in good condition to good performing States like Tamil Nadu?